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P A P E R S

IN

COLONIES AND TRADE.

No. I.

COCOA-NUT OIL.

The GOLD CERES MEDAL was this session presented to M. LAURENT BARBE, of the Mauritius, for preparing, and importing Seventy-six Tons of Cocoa-nut Oil. A sample of the oil has been placed in the Society's repository.

SIR,

Downing-street, April 29, 1825.

I TRANSMIT to you inclosed, and request that you will take an early opportunity of bringing under the favourable consideration of the Society, a communication from Lieutenant-General Sir Lowry Cole, respecting the exertions which have been made by M. Barbé to entitle himself to the reward held out by the Society for the production of a certain quantity of cocoa-nut oil, and explaining the cir-

cumstances which have rendered it impracticable to forward that article to this country within the time prescribed by the Society.

I am, Sir,

A. Aikin, Esq.

Secretary, &c. &c.

&c. &c. &c.

R. W. HORTON.

SIR,

Mauritius, Jan. 9, 1825.

In consequence of the encouragement held out to the person who should introduce into England the greatest quantity of cocoa-nut oil, during the year 1824, Mr. Barbé, a merchant of this colony, and owner of one of the small islands dependent on the government of the Mauritius, was induced to extend his manufacture of cocoa-nut oil, in order to compete for the reward offered by the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce; and in the early part of last year, as proved by the accompanying certificate, Mr. Barbé had prepared one hundred tons of oil, for the purpose of exporting into England. In consequence, however, of a supposition that this liquid is injurious to sugars, no vessel could be found to take it until the present moment. It cannot, therefore, arrive in England until after the expiration of the limited period; and I beg that you will be pleased to make the above circumstance known to the Society, as explanatory of the delay which has taken place.

In soliciting your support in favour of Mr. Barbé's claims, I should add, that every encouragement is due to this gentleman for the industry with which he has perse-

vered in cultivating the cocoa-nut tree, and the endeavours he has made to perfect the manufacture of oil.

His success would, no doubt, induce the proprietors of other islands, dependencies of this government, to attend to the cultivation of the cocoa-nut tree; and I regard it as an object of much importance to the interests of the colony, as likely to afford a very extensive and beneficial branch of industry.

I am, Sir,

A. Aikin, Esq.

Secretary, &c. &c.

&c. &c. &c.

J. LOWRY COLE.

CERTIFICATE.

Port Louis, December 1, 1824.

I hereby certify, for the information of his Excellency Sir Lowry Cole, Governor of the island of Mauritius and dependencies, that I have been charged by Mr. Laurent Barbé, manufacturer of cocoa-nut oil, to procure freight for one hundred tons of that oil, to be shipped for England, in order to gain the gold medal, or thirty guineas, as offered for the advantage of British colonies, by the Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, as published by government notice, under date the 8th of February, 1824; but that I have not been able, for the last eight months, to procure the freight until the present moment, and that I have now engaged for the same on board the *Resolution*, Parker master, to sail on the 6th of January next.

B. LE SAGE, *Agent.*